

Town Hall Questions and Answers: All responses are from Col Fuerst unless otherwise indicated.

DUI's/Misconduct

Q.1) Is there a way we can integrate this information (about misconduct, and rules in general) into our in-processing so that everybody gets this?

A.1) We'll work on that during our Welcome Aboard Brief. We weave this into our Welcome Aboard briefs that everyone is required to attend upon moving to MCAS Iwakuni, and will continue to refine the information that is presented there.

Q.2) Transit contractors that come through, they'll come in, get their base pass and go straight to work. They probably won't get any of this information.

A.2) They should be. Everybody who comes here on TAD/TDY is required to receive this information. We will tweak the Welcome Aboard Brief to make sure it gets out to everybody.

Q.3) Can you please clarify what counts as a traffic incident? We've been instructed that if we are driving off base and we hit

a curb we are supposed to call PMO. Would that produce in this category of misconduct?

A.3) A traffic accident isn't necessarily misconduct. If you're in an accident, most likely nothing will happen to you if you didn't do something really wrong. You are required to report it to PMO, especially if it involves a local national or any interaction with the Japanese Police.

Q.4) Is it true that if a driver gets a DUI, the passengers also get a DUI?

A.4) Yes, that is Japanese law. If the driver gets a DUI, the passengers will also get a DUI.

Q.5) At what point do you feel comfortable enough to get in your car to drive again?

A.5) (Accident Investigation Chief Staff Sgt. Smith with Provost Marshal's Office) Blood alcohol content .03 is blood alcohol content .03. As for when it is okay for you to get back in your vehicle the next morning, I can't answer that specifically because there are so many variables depending on how you as a person can process alcohol such as gender, height, weight, what

you have eaten, how much you drank, the rate of drinking, and so on. Generally speaking, your body will process 1 drink (12oz beer, 5 oz wine, or 1 oz hard alcohol) per hour, but keep in mind that that is merely a rule of thumb.

Q.6) I was wondering about clarification on DUI's with bicycles. How does that apply to this, if it does any at all?

A.6) The exact same rules apply. Japanese DUI law is the exact same for bicycles.

Q.7) Is there a zero tolerance policy for DUIs? I feel like you guys have been too nice and think it is time for the gloves to come off. Can people who get DUIs get their base access revoked?

A.7) We will consider that if we need to go that far. I put a lot of emphasis on their attitude during the situation, whether it was malicious, whether they are cooperative, etc. If I feel like a person is a threat to the good order and discipline aboard the base, they will be barred from base.

Q.8) Does this have an effect on your stateside driving record?

A.8) (Accident Investigation Chief Staff Sgt. Smith with Provost Marshal's Office) Yes it does. Any traffic incidents or infractions will follow you throughout any military installation.

Q.9) What about civilians? Does it follow you to the state you reside in?

A.9) It depends on the nature of the infraction and depends on the state. If it's egregious enough then we will report it, from there it is up to the individual state as to what they sanction. If it is a routine traffic citation, normally it will stay within the DOD reporting database.

Q.10) Where does the DUI law come into play when it comes to high school students?

A.10) You can't drive off base until you're 18. If they are over 18, then Japanese law applies exactly the same to them. If underage, they get underage drinking and the DUI.

Q.11) Do we have any information on misconduct to give high school students that are on sports teams or clubs that travel off base?

A.11) We have the Welcome Aboard that teenagers are required to attend to provide initial information. While in school or on DODEA-sponsored events, the school principal and staff are responsible for the discipline of the kids. If a minor conducts an offense, such as stealing from the MCX, then they will be processed by PMO, sent to the magistrate, and punished accordingly. We want to avoid sending the kids back home as part of the Early Return of Dependents (ERD) process, but if they are repeat offenders we will do so.

Q.12) Is dress code going to be something that is implemented because there are a lot of people who aren't complying.

A.12) It's already implemented, is more of an enforcement thing, and I appreciate your efforts to help self-police and enforce the standards. The Navy and Marine Corps dress codes are almost identical.

Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)

Q.13) Is there a possibility of arranging Noncombatant Evacuation Operation classes after school is out?

A.13) Yes, we can. Marine Corps Family Team Building conducts classes frequently, and I am open to holding some on Saturdays. DODEA and Marine Corps Family Team Building have training scheduled for Thursday, 19 October at MC Perry High School.

Q.14) Is the word getting out to the civilians on what to do if a NEO (Non-Combatant Evacuation) situation occurs and we have to evacuate the installation and do that process. What is the installation's plan on incorporating us into some kind of mandatory event so we can have the fidelity that the program actually works?

A.14) There are a series of classes that we are working on to better advertise and to refine the information. We conduct annual NEO exercises, we did an exercise in June and another one in August. It isn't mandatory (except for military personnel), it is on a volunteer basis for participation so that we don't interfere with employers. My staff is working to refine the classes and requirements based on a recently-published order by our higher headquarters (III MEF, based in Okinawa) to ensure that we are nested with their requirements.

Q.15) For those of us that are not emergency essential, is it required that we have personal protective equipment? We have not had any training nor do we have any personal protective equipment.

A.15) That is a dilemma, and we are working to solve that.

Q.16) This has to do with NEO. Are you going to allow people to get out of the gym, go back to their homes and stuff like that?

A.16) That is difficult to answer until the actual triggering event occurs. A NEO could be ordered for a number of reasons, such as a regional armed conflict or even a natural disaster such as an earthquake. Frankly, the driving factor will be the number of aircraft available at that moment in time to conduct airlift. If at all possible we're going to let common sense prevail, such as not having you sitting at the gym for 24+ hours when you can go to your house three blocks away. We will continue to refine our procedures and training.

Housing

Q.17) I know there used to be a five-year rule for civilians living on base, so what's going on with that?

A.17) As soon as we're confident in the amount of military families coming out here based on the movement of Carrier Air Wing-5 (CVW-5) to MCAS Iwakuni, we're going to try to open up homes for civilians. Target date for making that determination will likely be in the summer of 2018 after the next summer PCS period. It doesn't seem reasonable to me as to why we would kick you out of your home after you've been here for five years, but rather we would have to put removal clauses in there in order to conduct renovations, major maintenance, or a change in the active duty population.

Q.18) Will single people be able to move into base housing as well?

A.18) No, not into family housing units. We might be able to accommodate Bachelors Officers Quarters (BOQ), which is like a small apartment.

Q.19) Some bases in the states will open up base housing to civilians that work on base to rent them. Will that ever be an option here?

A.19) That is called "Public Private Venture" or PPV where a private company actually owns and runs base housing on CONUS

bases, and is currently not available overseas. I don't believe that will be an option overseas anytime soon.

Q.20) I heard you are opening housing to civilians. Does that include local hires and contractors?

A.20) We want to. There is potential that we will have excess housing aboard base once the current construction is completed and the Navy completes the move from Atsugi, and it makes sense to offer houses on a space-available basis. It's going to take six to eight months to figure out the actual occupancy rates with military personnel, but my sense is that a number of civilians will get the opportunity to live on base.

Traffic/Parking

Q.21) Are there any plans to open the main gate pedestrian walkway or will it be closed off for the duration of the construction?

A.21) It will be closed. With all of the construction going on at the main gate, it will be unsafe to cross through those paths. In addition, we don't have the manpower to man another gate.

Q.22) The main gate looks like a mini golf course when you go through it. It doesn't look like it's configured for a high volume of traffic. Is the new gate going to be able to sustain that?

A.22) It will be restrained by size (no more available real estate to expand upon) and constrained by Force Protection requirements to keep the base safe, so it won't be as efficient on throughput as we all would like it to be once completed. Anticipated completion of the project is in December of 2018.

Q.23) There's a four way intersection near the housing area that only has three stop signs, and I believe it causes confusion. Is there anything we could do about that?

A.23) Thank you for bringing that to our attention. Please send in an ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) comment with detailed information and your recommendation on how to solve it. That helps us to analyze the problem and take appropriate action to resolve the issue. Additionally, by using the ICE system, you will get a personal response from my staff on what we are doing about it if you leave your contact information.

Q.24) I'm using the Sakura Theater as alternate parking to get to Torii Pines and the CDC (Child Development Center), and it's a long haul with kids. Is there any way we can get a closer alternative parking?

A.24) We've gotten a lot of complaints about parking, but there is no current alternative while construction is underway for the new brig, CDC, and Chili's (at Torii Pines). I anticipate that most of the current problems with lack of parking will be resolved once construction is completed.

Q.25) With the traffic that goes on at the main gates, what can we do about the people who try to cut through the local neighborhoods to get to the gates faster? The locals are not happy about it at all, and they plan to go to the mayor about it.

A.25) We want the Mayor to do something about it. Anything that happens outside the gates is his responsibility, we do not have authority to run or enforce traffic control outside of the air station. The city of Iwakuni and/or the mayor can address it through a variety of means (timed traffic lights, traffic enforcement personnel, etc).

Q.26) A lot of traffic builds up by the Monzen gate to the point where it reaches the railroad tracks. Is there anything being done about that?

A.26) (1st Lt. Brattain, Deputy Provost Marshal) PMO continuously experiments with different options for the Monzen Gate and Freedom Bridge traffic issue to compensate for the traffic disruptions caused by the construction on base. We are working with the city on different options to emplace traffic control police outside the gate. As far as how many Military Police we have available for traffic control aboard the base, it fluctuates based on emergency calls and other guard requirements.

Q.27) Can we just let people know that it's okay to use public transportation? They are coming from America where everyone has a vehicle and come to here where they need to use public transportation.

A.27) I try to say all the time that this is a walking base. You will notice that I walk to work most days. I get what you are saying, and we will try working on that.

Q.28) Can we put up more signs outside base to direct people to the West Gate?

A.28) We plan to continuously review traffic flow and signage. It definitely is required, for example I walked back through the new West Gate after 0001 when it officially opened on 1 October and walked down a dead end that was not marked and had to turn around.

Q.29) The temporary bike lane at the new main gate requires you to go against traffic and walk your bike through to the sidewalk. Can we install a bike-lane entrance at the new gate?

A.29) Good question. Please ICE that, and my staff will research to see if we can make some adjustments to that entrance to reduce friction in that area.

Q.30) Marine Corps Exchange employees are parking at the commissary and have to walk over from that parking lot. Are there any adjustments that can be made for the Marine Corps Exchange parking?

A.30) As of right now there are no plans to fix that until construction is complete, there is simply a lack of available

space. When the new MCX is finished and the old one comes down, there will be a new parking lot there. I understand that's not until a year and a half from now, but I don't think there are any solutions from now until then.

Miscellaneous

Q.31) Should we use ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) comments?

A.31) I like ICE comments because my staff can see what you are talking about in writing and analyze appropriately. Articulate it in writing, preferably with a recommended solution, and you will get a personalized response if you leave your contact information.